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VIROLOGY

Cancer Clue

Discovery by five Sloan-Kettering researchers of a virus associated with human cancer lends added weight to the growing evidence that viruses play some role in human carcinogenesis. A unique property of the recently reported virus is that it produced a new disease in laboratory animals.

Drs. Helene W. Toolan, Gilbert Daldorf, Marion Barclay, Satish Chandra and Alice E. Moore have found the virus in the tissues of patients with cancer; to date, the virus



SLOAN-KETTERING INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

DEFORMED HAMSTER

Virus from Cancer Patients

has not been detected in the carcinoma itself nor in the tissues of normal individuals. Tissues of rats bearing transplanted human cancers contain the virus; tissues of normal rodents do not.

Inoculated into newborn hamsters, the virus produces a deformity characterized by small size, flattened foreface or microcephalic domed head, protruding eyes and tongue, absent or abnormal teeth and fragile bone structure. Grown in human sera, tissue cultures from spleen cells of the infected hamsters contain the virus; no virus is found when the hamster cells are grown in horse or calf sera. Suggested is that horse or calf sera may neutralize the virus.

Particles thought to be the virus have been visualized in the electron microscope; they do not resemble the known animal tumor viruses. Infectivity of the agent is rapidly destroyed by ultraviolet radiation or heat, but not by prolonged cold.

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On the Line:

The Passing Show...

By BOB CONSIDINE

NOW THAT one automobile concern has come up with a guarantee on the life of its muffler and exhaust pipe it would seem to be in the wind for next year's models to go one step farther and equip each new model with a filter.

That's not as far-fetched as it sounds. A device named Monoxit, made by a couple of firms from Pawtucket, R. I., and Chicago, "embodies a unique combination of direct flame after-burner and catalytic converter in a compact, easy-to-install unit, no larger than three inches in its major dimension, which is ingeniously attached directly to the exhaust manifold under the hood of an automobile."



CONSIDINE

It promises to take care of what certain cancer authorities believe is one of the major causes of the rising incidence of lung cancer in the U.S. If so, it, or something like it, should be made as much a required part of a car as, let's say, brakes.

In the Los Angeles area alone, the populace now breathes the gaseous refuse and particles from the exhaust pipes of 2,600,000 cars.

Will we in time have mentholated filters on cars? Will the fumes become so well treated or toasted or twisted that she will sigh, "blow some carbon monoxide my way?"

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